Highways Authority of India and Public Works Department of Government of NCT, Delhi to keep National Highways in good condition.

Hijackings off the Somali coast

511. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has urged Government to put in place a set of guidelines for safeguarding the interests of Indian seafarers and to take investigation on increased hijacking incidents off the Somali coast by pirates;

(b) if so, the reaction by Government and number of Indian vessels hijacked on the Somali coast by pirates; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The details of piracy related incidents involving Indian flag vessels are given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of vessel	Date of hijacking	Date of release	Date of attempted hijacking
1.	MSV Shiv shamboo	20.10.2008	25.10.2008	—
2.	MV Jag Arnav	—	—	11.11.2008
3.	MT Abul Kalam Azad	—	—	1.1.2009
4.	Prem Divya	—	—	12.2.2009

NH completion targets

512. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has reported a drop in its massive highways upgradation exercise in 2007;

(b) whether NHAI has set the highest ever highway completion targets for itself for 2008-09 and has unveiled largest ever expenditure plans for the same period;

(c) if so, whether the completion target of 3,597 kms. for 2008-09 is far above previous year's targets;

(d) whether in 2007-08 NHAI had targeted to upgrade 2885 kms. of NHs whereas it managed only 1614 kms; and

(e) to what extent these higher targets set in 2008-09 would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) In the year 2007, construction was completed for 1235 km and work was awarded for upgradation of 928 km length of highways.

(b) In the year 2008-09, target for completion as per outcome budget is 3615 kms and targeted budget expenditure is Rs. 31679/- crore.

(c) The target for completion of 3615 kms length during 2008-09 is higher than the previous year's target.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) Of the targeted 3615 kms length for completion, 1816 kms length has already been completed, and an expenditure of Rs. 14501/- crore has been incurred. It is the continued endeavour of the NHAI to ensure expeditious achievement of targets to the extent feasible.

Targets for NHAI projects

513. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is lagging behind in reaching most of its targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to delay in completion of the projects by NHAI in time, there is steep cost escalation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to complete the projects within time bound period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (b) There has been slow progress in the implementation of a few NHAI projects due to poor/non-performance by the contractors, rescinding and re-awarding to contracts of non-performing contractors, delays in land acquisition etc. The phase-wise progress and scheduled completion date for projects under National Highways Development Project is given in Statement—I (*See* below).

(c) to (d) Actual increase in cost can only be known on completion of these projects. Escalations in cost are paid as per contract according to which in case the project is delayed due